

the president of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. Also honored were the Chanute Prize team recipients, the Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation of Purdue University Calumet and "S-in motion," ArcelorMittal Global R&D Center, East Chicago. For their truly remarkable contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and their continuous efforts to cultivate a culture of innovation, these honorees were inducted during a prestigious event that took place at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana, on October 18, 2012.

The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana was created by Chancellor J. Guadalupe Valtierra of Ivy Tech Northwest with the goal of highlighting and encouraging innovative individuals and groups within the not-for-profit, public, and private sectors, as well as building a "culture of innovation" in Northwest Indiana. The importance of innovation in Northwest Indiana, as well as globally, is crucial in today's ever-changing economy.

These five Fellows selected by the Society of Innovators were chosen for their extraordinary innovative leadership and the impact of their accomplishments throughout the community of Northwest Indiana and the world. Eugene S. Smotkin, Ph.D. is a professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University and the Chief Executive Officer of NuVant Systems, Incorporated in Crown Point. NuVant develops and distributes electrochemical equipment and materials for the research and development, manufacturing, and educational markets. Pearl Prince is the principal of Frankie Woods McCullough Girls Academy in Gary, the city's first public all girls school for kindergarten through seventh grade students. Pearl developed and implemented an educational model that has led the academy to become an award winning elementary school for students from low income areas. Olga Petryszyn was named one of the top hosta plant hybridizers in the United States. Since 1993, she has registered twenty-four hosta plants with twenty-two varieties commercialized. In 2012, the world famous "Niagara Falls" variety was honored by the American Hosta Society. Gus Olympidis, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Family Express, developed a nationally recognized business model that measures up to global competitors. The business model includes the "Living Brand" for customer service, innovative logistics, and state-of-the-art technology linking the 57 stores to their headquarters in Valparaiso. Neal Haskell, Ph.D., Saint Joseph College, Rensselaer, is one of the foremost scientists of forensic entomology in the world. Using his expertise of the life cycles of insects to determine time and location of death in criminal cases, Dr. Haskell is a pioneer and truly an innovative leader. He has assisted the FBI, Indiana State Police, New York State Police, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and Canada's Office of the Chief Coroner, among others, with criminal cases across the county and throughout the world.

I am also honored to represent Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr., who was awarded the Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Innovation and Service. Gregg is the President of Omnitech Systems, Incorporated in Valparaiso, Indiana. Gregg founded this medical device company that has developed products to assist with surgeries associated with urology and gynecology. He currently holds eight patents for products that are used by surgeons worldwide.

Finally, the recipients of the Chanute Prize for Team Innovation should be commended for their contributions. The Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation of Purdue University Calumet has been able to save more than \$30 million dollars for local business, industry, and communities by implementing its modeling, visualization and simulation technologies, researchers. Additionally, "S-in motion" is a revolutionary concept of designing lighter and safer automobiles utilizing new steel products that was created with the assistance of ArcelorMittal Global R&D Center in East Chicago. This innovative program works to create steel for automobiles that reduces the weight of vehicles in order to meet higher fuel standards and to guarantee the use of steel in automobiles in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding innovators. The contributions they have made to society, here in Northwest Indiana and worldwide, are immeasurable and lifelong. For their truly brilliant innovative ideas, projects, and leadership, each recipient is worthy of the highest commendation.

CONGRATULATING MS. DEBORAH WASYLIK, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 RICHARD C. BARTLETT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD

### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Deborah Wasylik of Orlando, Florida on being named the recipient of the 2012 Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award. This annual award is presented to an outstanding middle or high school teacher who integrates environmental studies in their curriculum and engages students in interdisciplinary solutions to environmental challenges.

Ms. Wasylik teaches Advanced Placement Environmental Science and Marine Science to juniors and seniors at Dr. Phillips High School. In spite of not having a science budget and having to construct curriculum on her own, not only have her students on average scored over thirty points above the national average on their Advanced Placement exams, but they also hold the highest Advanced Placement passing rate in Orange County Public Schools. Ms. Wasylik succeeds in engaging her students, as well as her fellow colleagues, in environmental studies by integrating environmental education across subject areas beyond science, including history, language arts and mathematics. Her reinforcement of student learning facilitates students making real world and local connections associated with environmental issues.

In addition to their academic successes, her students have excelled significantly in achievements beyond the traditional classroom. Her students started a recycling program for Dr. Phillips High School's campus and created an outreach program to educate other school groups on aquaponics. With Ms. Wasylik's help, her students have been able to give back to their community in various ways in-

cluding cleaning up beaches, removing invasive plants, and giving tours of the ecosystem section at the Orlando Science Center.

Her spirit of dedication and commitment to her students is an example of the life-changing impact a dedicated educator can have on a community and on the individual lives of students. She is a shining example of the fruits of selflessness demonstrated by educators who devote themselves to Florida's future by investing in Florida's students.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and applaud Ms. Deborah Wasylik for her hard work, dedication, and leadership. She is most deserving of the 2012 Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award. May her investment in our nation's students, environment and educational institutions inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,370,056,245,929.64. We've added \$5,743,179,197,016.56 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

### COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2012*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the City of Southfield, and thank the residents of Southfield who have provided me with the honor of representing them in Congress for 30 years. My beloved late wife, Vicki and I, called Southfield our home when I was first elected to Congress, and our Congressional office was based there for many years. I have been proud to see the fabric of this community diversify racially and to watch it develop economically.

Historically, when Governor Cass first ordered the area in the "south fields" of Bloomfield Township surveyed in 1817, he could not have guessed at the fine city it would become. Though it became a township in 1830, it wasn't until 1958, over 100 years later, that Southfield would formally incorporate into a city.

Southfield has earned its moniker, "The Center of It All." Strong neighborhoods. Good schools. Manufacturing. Office high-rises which house more than 100 Fortune 500 companies. And, a deep sense of community and friendship.

I have enjoyed participating in so many activities and events like the annual Dr. Martin